

Case 2661

MACROPODINAE Liem, 1963 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): proposed emendation of spelling to MACROPODUSINAE, so removing the homonymy with MACROPODIDAE Gray, 1821 (Mammalia, Marsupialia)

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Abstract. The family-group name MACROPODINAE Liem, 1963 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes, family OSPHRONEMIDAE, BELONTIIDAE or ANABANTIDAE) is a junior homonym of MACROPODIDAE Gray, 1821 (Mammalia, Marsupialia). Both names are in use and refer, respectively, to a group of anabantoid fishes (labyrinth fishes) from South, Southeast and East Asia and to the kangaroos and wallabies of Australia (including Tasmania) and New Guinea. The senior homonym is much older and has been considerably more widely used than the junior and it is proposed that the homonymy be removed by changing the spelling of the fish family-group name to MACROPODUSINAE by using the whole name of the type genus *Macropodus* La Cépède, 1801 as the grammatical stem, while leaving the mammalian name (based on *Macropus* Shaw & Nodder, 1790) unchanged. The names of *Macropus* and of its type species, *M. giganteus* Shaw & Nodder, 1790, were placed on Official Lists in Opinion 760 (January 1966).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Mammalia; Marsupialia; Osteichthyes; Perciformes; MACROPODIDAE; OSPHRONEMIDAE; BELONTIIDAE; ANABANTIDAE; MACROPODUSINAE; *Macropus*; *Macropodus*; kangaroos; wallabies; anabantoid fishes; labyrinth fishes; Australia; Tasmania; New Guinea; Southeast Asia.

1. In 1790 Shaw & Nodder (text and pl. 33) described and illustrated the new genus and species *Macropus giganteus*, the grey kangaroo from Eastern Australia and Tasmania. The names of *Macropus* and of *M. giganteus* were placed on Official Lists in Opinion 760 (January 1966), the species being defined by the male neotype (catalogue number J.10749 in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane) proposed in 1964 by Kirkpatrick & Woods (BZN 21: 249–250) and by Calaby & Ride (BZN 21: 254).

2. Gray (1821, p. 308) established the family-group MACROPIDAE based on *Macropus*, which was subsequently corrected by Owen (1839, pp. 16, 19) to MACROPODIDAE. The latter name has subsequently been universally used for the kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos of Australia (including Tasmania) and New Guinea. The family currently includes some 10 genera and 50 species, and a number of fossil taxa are known from the Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene.

3. La Cépède (1801, p. 416, pl. 16, fig. 1) established the name *Macropodus* for the paradise fish, with *M. viridiauratus* La Cépède, 1801 (p. 416) as the single included species. Species of *Macropodus* are now known from much of East Asia (from

Vietnam to Japan and Korea), have been accidentally introduced to Laos and Cambodia and probably a few other countries, and are commonly reared for the aquarium trade. Species from India referred to *Macropodus* (even in the recent literature) are, in fact, *Pseudosphromenus*.

4. Liem (1963, p. 47) established the family-group name MACROPODINAE for one of three groups in the family BELONTIIDAE Liem, 1963, setting out (p. 73) the morphological characteristics of each group. Liem's (1963) subfamily included the genera *Macropodus*, *Parosphromenus* Bleeker, 1877, *Trichopsis* Canestrini, 1860, *Malpulutta* Deraniyagala, 1937 and *Betta* Bleeker, 1850. Subsequently, Vierke (1975) added *Pseudosphromenus* Bleeker, 1879 and these six genera are the currently accepted constituents of the subfamily (see Britz, 2001). Members of the subfamily are found in South, Southeast and East Asia, from Sri Lanka to Japan and Korea, and to Indonesia.

5. The relationships within anabantoid fishes have not been the subject of many studies since Liem (1963) (although there have been a considerable number of publications on species taxonomy, ecology and ethology). The name MACROPODINAE has been seldom used. However, recent work on the group (see Britz, 2001; Britz & Cambray, 2001, and Freyhof & Herder, 2002) has resulted in the name being brought back into use. It has been used by these authors for a subfamily of the OSPHRONEMIDAE but in the future may well be required at family level. Britz (2001, p. 261) recorded that the name MACROPODINAE Liem, 1963 was a junior homonym of the marsupial family-group name MACROPODIDAE Gray, 1821, and that an application to deal with the homonymy had been submitted to the Commission. To remove the homonymy I propose that the fish name be emended to MACROPODUSINAE, by using the full generic name *Macropodus* as the stem, while leaving the well known and much used marsupial family name unaltered.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Macropodus* La Cèpède, 1801 (Osteichthyes) is MACROPODUS-;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Macropodus* La Cèpède, 1801 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Macropodus viridiauratus* La Cèpède, 1801 (Osteichthyes);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *viridiauratus* La Cèpède, 1801, as published in the binomen *Macropodus viridiauratus* (specific name of the type species of *Macropodus* La Cèpède, 1801) (Osteichthyes);
- (4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) MACROPODIDAE Gray, 1821, type genus *Macropus* Shaw & Nodder, 1790 (Marsupialia);
 - (b) MACROPODUSINAE Liem, 1963, type genus *Macropodus* La Cèpède, 1801 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above) (Osteichthyes);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name MACROPODINAE Liem, 1963 (spelling emended to MACROPODUSINAE by the ruling in (1) above) (Osteichthyes).

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).